

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: KOCHI UPPER HOUSE BY-ELECTION

SUMMARY: ON MAY 12, LDP CANDIDATE YU HAYASHI WON KOCHI
UPPER HOUSE BY-ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LAST UPPER HOUSE BY-ELECTION BEFORE MAIN EVENT
LATER THIS SUMMER, ON MAY 12 LDP CANDIDATE YU HAYASHI
(41) WON EASY ELECTION TO SEAT VACATED BY DEATH OF LDP'S
YUKIO HAMADA.

2. WITH 69 PERCENT VOTER TURN-OUT, HAYASHI OBTAINED
193,278 VOTES, WHILE JSP CANDIDATE SHU FUJIWARA (ALSO
BACKED BY JCP) RECEIVED 138,228 AND KOMEITO CONTENDER
SAKUTARO HIRAI GAINED 66,637. WINNER HAYASHI IS
TOURIST COMPANY PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF KOCHI LDP
CHAPTER. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT SERVED IN DIET PREVIOUSLY,
HAYASHI BENEFITTED FROM FAMOUS NAME (GRANDFATHER WAS POLI-
TICIAN AND FATHER WAS SPEAKER OF LOWER HOUSE), FROM
VIGOROUS LDP BACKING WHICH INCLUDED STUMPING TOUR BY
PRIME MINISTER, AND FROM LACKLUSTER JOINT JSP-JCP CAMPAIGN.

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3. AS RESULT OF BY-ELECTION, UPPER HOUSE PARTY LINE-UP
GOING INTO SUMMER ELECTION IS: LDP (135), JSP (59),
KOMEITO (23), DSP (11), JCP (11), NIIN CLUB (4),
INDEPENDENTS (2) AND VACANCIES (7).

4. COMMENT: WHILE HAYASHI WAS EXPECTED TO WIN, FACT
THAT HE DID WELL IN URBAN AREAS AGAIN UNDERSCORES
INABILITY OF OPPOSITION PARTIES TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES
AND PUT TOGETHER EFFECTIVE JOINT CAMPAIGN OFFERING
ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO LDP. GIVEN BY-ELECTION EXPERIENCE,
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY JSP WILL HAVE MUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR PROMISED
JOINT CAMPAING WITH JCP IN KOCHI LATER THIS SUMMER.

SHOESMITH

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